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No. 47**

Geographical Names Matter

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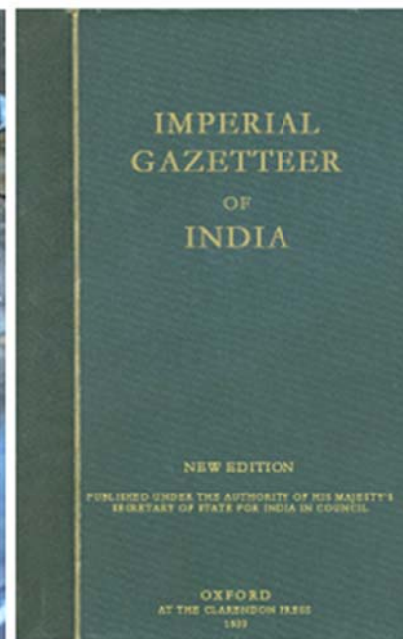
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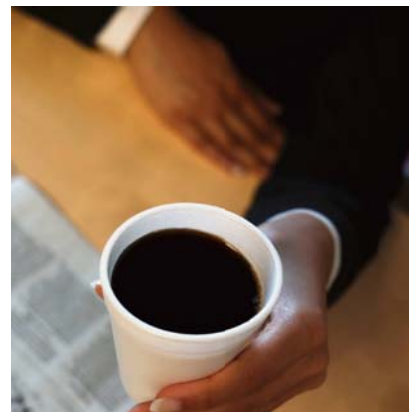


UNEGN Information Bulletin

The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNEG N Newsletter) is issued twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions and reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups. Contributions for the Information Bulletin can only be considered when they are made available in digital form. They should be sent to the following address:

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Previous issues of the Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) can be found at

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/unegn_info_bulletins.htm



Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues,

Well, things did not work out as envisaged at the time of the last Bulletin. Please allow me the opportunity to apologise for my non-attendance at the recent UNGEKN Session. Unfortunately, a badly timed bout of a minor illness meant that I had to stay at home. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the rest of the UNGEKN Bureau, the Secretariat and others who successfully managed to run the session.

I also take this opportunity to thank those who volunteered their time to be part of some of the revamped working groups, and recognize Mr. Tjeerd Tichelaar as the Convenor of the Working Group on Pronunciation; Ms. Annette Torenstjör and Mr. Leif Nilsson and co convenors of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage; and Mr. Gerhard Rampl and the Coordinator for Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors. The working groups are a very effective means of focusing on these current issues and I am grateful for the work that all convenors and participants undertake. Again, I encourage anyone with a specific interest in any of these topics to become actively involved in the working groups.

In relation to the Secretariat, it is with some sadness that I advise that Ms. Sabine Warschburger will be moving to other duties within the UN Statistics Division and therefore will play a diminishing role with UNGEKN. I would like to thank Sabine for the great support she has been for us. The work that the Secretariat undertakes on our behalf cannot be underestimated.

Taking her place will be Ms. Cecille Blake, whom many of you would have met in New York. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Cecille as she joins us in this new capacity and look forward to working with her in the future.



I was able to attend the UN-GGIM Session, held in New York in August this year. It is good to see the progress made by the organisation and the obvious recognition it has in relation to the importance of place names to the general spatial information environment. As well as the general promotion of the work of UNGEKN. I was able to meet with individual country and organisation representative to discuss specific situations.

At this stage, it looks like the next session will be held in Bangkok in 2016, and further information on this will be disseminated in the future.

William Watt

UNGEKN Chair

Australia

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Message from the Secretariat

Dear UNGEKN Experts,

Having participated in the preparation and staging of my first UNGEKN Session in April 2014, I take this opportunity to thank the Bureau, the Chairs and members of the Working Groups and Task Teams, participants in the map and poster exhibition, and all attendees for contributing to a successful five days of technical discussions on advancing the use of geographical names. A quick overview of the session showed that a total of 53 United Nations Member States were represented by 164 delegates. There were 8 observers from the private sector and non-government organisations, making a total of 172 participants, (this figure does not include UN staff). Eighty working papers were submitted and 6 special presentations were delivered. Of the 45* responses to the session evaluation questionnaire, 44 or 98% of the respondents said that the session met their expectations and 25 respondents, that is 56% said that overall the session was of excellent use, 16 or 35% said it was good and 4 or 9% said it was of fair use.

Two noteworthy decisions from the session were, one the amendment of Rule 37 of the Rules of Procedure and two, the decision to hold the 28th Session in Bangkok from 25-29 April 2016. Rule 37 now states that the Expert Group and its working groups meetings are to be in public, thereby allowing for webcasting. Both decisions were subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council on Wednesday 16 July 2014, during its coordination and management meeting. The session report and papers are now all available on the Session web pages at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/ungeknSession28.html>, you are encouraged to visit and access the documents.

In regards to housekeeping matters, I extend great appreciation to Ms. Sabine Warschburger for guiding and holding my hand as I learnt to navigate the unknown waters of UNGEKN. Ms. Warschburger has relinquished Secretariat responsibilities for UNGEKN to take on other duties in the Statistics Division; however she continues to provide advice when needed. The work of the UNGEKN Secretariat is therefore now carried out by Ms. Vilma Frani and me.

In our continuing effort to improve the bulletin you will see that we have changed the look, beginning with the masthead/header on the front page. Thanks to the United Nations Graphics Unit, it now shows our signature skyline, which has been featured in a few of our promotional items such as the bookmarkers and posters. In addition, for this and future issues of the Bulletin we hope to have a special feature on a geographical name topic. In this issue we will be featuring Gazetteers, with a special article on the "Gazetteer of Australia". We will also be working much



more closely with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding to improve the content and increase the circulation of the bulletin.

You are encouraged to visit the UNGEKN website periodically, for information on upcoming events, workshops and conferences. Member States and national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their information for the UNGEKN World Geographical Names Database, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/>. Accepted for inclusion in the database are the names of cities with populations over 100,000, in the original writing system and romanized form. Also included is the location of the place in coordinates in degrees and decimal degrees. The audio files for city names are also accepted. We also wish to remind our global experts and persons wishing to learn more about toponymy that they can pursue the online BSc level, web course at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/data_I_CAcourses/index.html

It is a 20 module program, subdivided in chapters, complete with self-study guides, exercises and resource documents.

We look forward to receiving your comments and your contribution to this and forthcoming bulletins. We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Cecille Blake
UNGEKN Secretariat
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*Initially 45 responses were received. An additional 8 were received after the session.



Special Feature - Gazetteers

Gazetteer of Australia

As part of the Foundation Spatial Data Framework (FSDF) initiative in Australia, place names were identified as one of 10 foundation spatial data themes. This provided an opportunity to look at the current situation of the Gazetteer of Australia and determine a number of steps to increase the reliability of the place names data. This is of particular importance given the cross thematic role that place names play within the FSDF.

Place naming mandate is part of the State/Territory responsibility, with each jurisdiction, the Royal Navy Hydrographic Service, Australian Antarctic Division and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority each having a role to play in the naming process, but each with a different legislative and process base.

As a result of these differences there are 9 separate jurisdictional/authority place names data bases, each independent in terms of its structure and contents.

To overcome this issue, a subset of jurisdictional/authority data has been compiled by Geoscience Australia (a federal agency) on a once a year basis to create the Gazetteer of Australia. This subset is both in terms of the fields of data and the feature types supplied. Given that it takes a few months to undertake the required code mapping and compilation, the data ranges between 2-14 months out of date from the date of release of the data through to the next release.

It has been determined that this situation is not suitable to meet the client needs as identified as part of the FSDF initiative.

A number of steps have been identified to improve the Gazetteer of Australia to better meet client needs, summarised as follows:

1. Investigate and develop a better supply chain structure for the Gazetteer of Australia, with the eventual aim of developing a Web Feature Services (WFS) connectivity to enable real time update of the nation data. There may be interim steps of increasing the frequency of incremental data loads while the WFS is being developed and deployed.

2. Formalise the undocumented agreement between the jurisdiction/authorities and Geoscience Australia regarding the data supply to ensure appropriate priority is given in the jurisdictions/authorities for both the current and the improved data supply requirement.
3. Investigate and develop more comprehensive field representation and data content, including a resolution for the situations where multiple data sets exist within jurisdictions (one being maintained by the place naming authority and one by the mapping authority).
4. Extend existing feature classification from the current 4 character feature code to a 3 or 4 field representation for feature category, sub category, feature type and possible feature sub type identification to improve the data analysis and feature extraction capabilities.

William Watt

Chair

Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia

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<http://www.ga.gov.au/place-names/>



From the Divisions

Norden Division

News from the Norden Division Meeting in New York, April 29, 2014

This year's Norden Division Meeting was held in New York on 29 April, in conjunction with the 28th UNGEGN Session. Of items discussed at the meeting was the status of the Norden Division homepage, as well as the implementation of INSPIRE and EuroGeoNames services and the establishment of a minority language geographical names database.

Next Norden Division Meeting

The next Norden Division Meeting is still being planned. However, there was a general acceptance at the meeting to try and hold the next meeting in Kárášjohka/Karasjok in Northern Norway, preferably in August. Kárášjohka/Karasjok is the centre for Sámi culture in Norway, and the Norden Division is very much looking forward to visiting this part of Norway.

Peder Gammeltoft

Chair, Norden Division

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Romano-Hellenic Division

Meeting of Romano-Hellenic Division and International scientific symposium in Italy

The Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Tuscany Region will organize in spring 2015, the next meeting of Romano-Hellenic Division (RHD) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN) and the International scientific symposium "Place names as intangible cultural heritage".

Meeting of RHD

The meeting of RHD will take place in Florence [Firenze], Italy [Italia], from 25-27 March 2015 on "Status of national standardization of geographical names in the Romano-Hellenic area".

All the distinguished experts of RHD (Andorra, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece, Holy See, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey) are invited to participate and to present their national reports.

Documents for the meeting may be e-mailed to the chairman of the RHD (see addresses below) by 16 January 2015.

Portuguese-speaking Division

Aiming at improving and facilitating the standardization of geographical names in Portuguese-speaking countries, The Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) is glad to announce the publication of the Portuguese translation of the UNGEGN document "Resolutions Adopted at the Tenth United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names".

The translation is available at the UNGEGN site at

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGN/docs/RESOLU%C3%87%C3%95ES%20ADOTADAS%20NAS%20DEZ%20CONFER%C3%84NCIAS%20DO%20UNEGN_trad.pdf

Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende

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International scientific symposium

In conjunction with the meeting of RHD an International scientific symposium will take place still in Florence, from 26-27 March 2015, on "Place names as intangible cultural heritage".

Experts on geographical names, historians, geographers and cartographers are cordially invited to take part to the symposium. Participation is free of charge.

Topics of the symposium are: preservation of the toponymic heritage, historical maps and toponymy, *genius loci* and identity, etymological studies, place names of historical linguistic minority, vernacular place names, new toponyms, cartography and toponymy, role of names authorities.

Announcement of papers and submission of abstracts (max. 400 words) may be e-mailed to the chairman of the RHD (see e-mail addresses below) by 28 November 2014.

Paper may be e-mailed to the same e-mail addresses by 16 January 2015.

Andrea Cantile

Chair of Romano-Hellenic Division

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From the Working Groups

Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

Working Group Meeting, New York, 30 April 2014

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding in New York, 08:00-09:45, 30 April on the occasion of the 28th Session of UNEG. The meeting was attended by twelve experts.

The action items coming from the previous meeting were reviewed and it was confirmed that all of them had been completed. The initiative to take some measures to implement resolutions, in particular, was given positive responses; encouraging to relate working papers to resolutions, presenting a working paper evoking the relevance of implementing resolutions, inserting questions on resolutions to the evaluation questionnaire, etc.

Two suggestions were made on future surveys of conference/session evaluation; the questionnaire is to be reviewed and commented on by Working Group convenors in its design process and to consider online survey, to increase the response rate and secure the ease of analysis. Steps would be taken to accommodate these suggestions at the next session.

With regards to the resolutions database, there are some problems with diacritic marks and justification were noted

in the French version, all of which are being fixed.

It was announced that Spanish would be a third language of the database. The Arabic text of resolutions was being prepared, which would probably be the next language.

Follow-up to the 28th Session

A total of 53 completed questionnaires were collected for evaluating the 28th Session; 39 English, 9 French and 5 Spanish ones. As the coding of answers is being done, basic findings are expected to be reported in the next bulletin.

A full Spanish text of 207 resolutions adopted up to the 10th Conference was received from the chair of the Latin America Division. The process is now going on to put it in the database format. It is expected to be completed before the end of this year after a series of review by Spanish-speaking experts. Problems of diacritic marks and justification have been fixed for the French version of the resolutions database. The convenor received a full Portuguese text of resolutions from the Portuguese-speaking Division during the 28th Session.

Sungjae Choo

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Working Group on Exonyms

16th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, Hermagor, Austria, 5 -7 June 2014

The working group met in Hermagor in the Austrian federal province of Carinthia [Kärnten] for a workshop on the endonym/exonym divide and an intensive discussion of new definitions for both terms. The meeting was hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names and attended by 28 experts from 17 countries (see Fig. 1). There were three sessions in total and 18 papers were presented:

Session 1: The endonym/exonym divide – general aspects

(Chair: Peter Jordan, Austria)

- Jordan, Peter: The endonym/exonym divide – On the state of our discussions



Figure 1: The participants of the meeting in front of the venue (Photo credit: Maciej Zych)



- Nyström, Staffan (Sweden): Endonym and exonym: definitions and some useful subterms
- Hausner, Isolde (Austria): Are exonyms and endonyms onomastic or toponymic terms?
- Päll, Peeter (Estonia): Spelling differences and exonyms
- Crljenko, Ivana (Croatia): Practical benefits of knowing the definitions of exonym and endonym when creating the list of exonyms/foreign names
- Matthews, Phil (New Zealand): Endonyms, exonyms, boundaries and standardization
- Bušs, Ojārs (Latvia): Don't we have at least some endonyms for foreign geographical features?
- Bell, Herman (United Kingdom): A multilingual environment: Its relevance for defining 'endonym' and 'exonym'
- Sabbār, Halim (United Kingdom), in the author's absence presented by Herman Bell: Disenfranchising indigenous languages. The need to define 'endonym' and 'exonym' with accuracy and fairness

Session 2: The endonym/exonym divide – macroregional views

(Chair: Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea)

- Tanabe, Hiroshi (Japan): Difficulties of the exonym/endonym dichotomy from the view-point of East Asian place names
- Choo, Sungjae; Kim, Heesu (Republic of Korea): The endonym/exonym divide in the context of the Korean language
- Zagórski, Bogusław R. (Poland): Endonym-exonym divide: observations based on Polish-Persian toponymic equivalences
- Mikesy, Gábor; Pokoly, Béla; Bölcskei, Andrea (Hungary): The exonym/endonym divide: Examples highlighting different aspects in Central Europe
- Calvarin, Élisabeth (France) in the author's absence presented by Peter Jordan: La toponymie et l'or noir - ou la toponymie dans le monde industriel (Toponymy and the crude oil – or the toponymy in the industrial world).

Session 3: The endonym/exonym divide – national views

(Chair: Béla Pokoly, Hungary)

- Marek, Tomáš (Czech Republic): View of members of the Czech Commission on Geographical Names on exonyms
- Geršič, Matjaž; Kladnik, Drago (Slovenia): Slovenian

geographical names as exonyms

- Zych, Maciej (Poland): The new list of Polish exonyms
- Woodman, Paul (United Kingdom): Endonyms and exonyms in the "Near Abroad": The role of Russian in the toponymy of Kazakhstan

All papers will be published in the next volume (Vol. 4) of the toponymic book series "Name & Place" edited by Peter Jordan and Paul Woodman.

A general discussion on new definitions of the endonym and the exonym resulted in the following main conclusions:

- (1) New definitions of endonym and exonym have not accepted by a larger group of experts present.
- (2) Convincing arguments especially against the elimination of officiality as a criterion for the endonym/exonym have been brought forward in this meeting: (a) Dissociation of officiality and endonym status would mean that in several countries a number of official names would lose their endonym status and turn into exonyms. This category of names, however, was certainly not in the scope of UNGEGN experts, when they passed UN resolutions demanding the reduction of exonyms. Eliminating officiality as a criterion for the endonym/exonym divide would therefore lead to a contradiction between the definitions of endonym and exonym on the one hand and UN resolutions on the other, which cannot be accepted. Together with new definitions it would be necessary to modify these resolutions. (b) "Mother countries" of cultural minorities could use the endonym status of non-official minority place names as a pretext and excuse for territorial claims or at least protective measures related to these minorities and their territories.
- (3) The current definitions of endonym and exonym are in the given situation the optimum achievable.

The long (since 2010) and intensive discussion on the endonym/exonym divide and on new definitions of endonym and exonym in the WG has nevertheless been fruitful and by no means in vain. It has revealed a lot of aspects that had never been addressed before. By exploring all other possibilities and directions it has also made the WG sure that the current definitions are the best of all possible solutions. The whole discussion is moreover well-documented by four book volumes (and will additionally be documented by the next volume with the proceedings of the Hermagor meeting), so that all the arguments and findings will remain accessible and can be taken as a basis for future research.



The day after the workshop most participants joined a bus excursion with explanations of the namescape to Hermagor and White Lake [Weißensee] (see Fig. 2 and Fig. 3)

Peter Jordan

Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms

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Figure 2: Walking along the lake (Photo credit: Maciej Zych)



Figure 3: White Lake [Weißensee] received its name due to the characteristic white bend along the shores (Photo credit: Maciej Zych)

Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

A working group meeting was held in New York on 28 April, in conjunction with the 28th UNGEGN Session.

Helen Kerfoot chaired the meeting on behalf of William Watt. The meeting was attended by close to 30 delegates.

Helen gave a brief overview of the WG activities to date, recalling the resolution at the 8th Conference (Berlin 2002) to consider promotion of the use of indigenous names and the 2012 decision to change the name to Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage (which enlarges the scope of the working group). She emphasized the current task to balance the original intent and other potential topics within the scope of names as cultural heritage.

New Convenors

Bill Watt has been convenor of this group in recent years but as he is Chair of UNGEGN he does not have sufficient time to dedicate to this Working Group.

During a discussion regarding the responsibility for chairing the working group it was noted that there is a great deal of work to be done. This is true particularly in terms of differences in how countries take up immaterial cultural

heritage, in which geographical names are involved. The possibility of co-convening was discussed, and there was agreement on the solution of having two co-convenors supported by a steering group. This led to the following structure.

Co-Convenors: Annette Torensjö and Leif Nilsson, Sweden (Norden Division)

Steering Group: Peder Gammeltoft; Sungjae Choo; Teemu Leskinen; Naima Friha; Michel Simeu Kamdem; Eman Oriaby.

We intend to arrange a WG meeting during 2015, mainly dealing with aspects of place-names in multi-lingual areas. If you have any thoughts or ideas in relation to the work of this WG, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Annette Torensjö
Leif Nilsson

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Working Group on Publicity and Funding

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding held a joint meeting with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation in New York on 30 April 2014, in conjunction with the 28th UNGEKN Session.

At the Working Group meeting on Publicity and Funding, three key items were discussed: Action items completed since the last meeting (including updated Media Kit, reporting of Working Group Activities, financial priorities, etc.), funding activities (including Toponymic Terminology Database and translation of publicity material) and public outreach (such as Information Bulletin, UNGEKN website, Wikipedia information; stock taking of printed matter, IGU/ICA Joint Commission on Toponymy and outreach in Onomastic and Cartographic fora).

In addition, the question of a new joint rapporteur for the Working Group on Publicity and Funding and the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation was raised as rapporteur, Mr. Hubert Bergman, Austria, unfortunately had to stand. No decision has yet been reached on this issue

Peder Gammeltoft

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

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From the Countries

Botswana

Geographical Names Activities at Department of Surveys and Mapping (DSM), Botswana

Department of Surveys and Mapping (DSM) as a national mapping agency is spearheading the actions towards the resuscitation of Geographical Names Committee

- DSM has established an interim committee comprising of 5 departments which are Geological Surveys, Roads Transport and Safety, National Museum, Statistics Botswana, Water Affairs and still awaiting response from several others. The first meeting of the committee will be on 2 September 2014.
- An Awareness workshop was done for DSM staff Members on 16 April 2014, where 26 staff members attended.
- Another presentation will be done to Ministry of Lands and Housing (MLH) in September during the leadership Forum which is attended by Land Board Secretaries, Deputy Land Board Secretaries and Directors of all departments under MLH.

- A response is still being awaited from the Attorney General Chambers where a brief was made to look into this in a legal manner.

Baboloki Gabalape

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Brazil

As of October 2014, Brazil will start carrying out studies for the revision of the list of Brazilian exonyms. The present list will be the subject of careful analysis aiming at the reduction of the use of exonyms. The Committee of Geographic Names plans to publish the new list in the end of 2015.

Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende

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Republic of Korea

International Symposium on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

The National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea will be holding an international symposium on toponymy, titled Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, in Seoul, 5-7 November 2014. The symposium will be composed of three paper sessions, one panel discussion session and an excursion.

Geographical names have great value as cultural heritage because it contains various layers of cultural, social, political, economic and other changes. As an extension of a series of researches, this symposium intends to elaborate on how to identify names with cultural heritage value and how to protect them from disappearing, and contribute to seeking for future research agendas.

With an umbrella theme of cultural heritage, the following sub-themes will also be covered;

- perception, identity and geographical names
- geographical names of indigenous and minority language group

- regional identity and endonyms/exonyms
- cultural politics and geographical name changes
- toponymic disputes and their resolutions
- geographical names as cultural heritage and names standardization

Those who have interests in participating, as a presenter or discussant, are asked to contact Professor Sungjae Choo (sjchoo@khu.ac.kr).

Sungjae Choo

Professor, Kyunghee University

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Special Projects and News Items

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management agrees on Strengthening the Global Geodetic Reference Frame for sustainable development, at its Fourth Session in August 2014

The Fourth Session of the *United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)* was held from 6-8 August 2014 at the *United Nations Headquarters in New York*.

The session was attended by 281 participants, among them 222 senior leaders from 84 United Nations Member States. Also present were 59 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other international organizations.

The Fourth Session continued to move UN-GGIM forward towards fulfilling its important mandate to enhance collaboration between Member States and to assist in making accurate, reliable and authoritative geospatial information readily available to support national, regional and global development and the important sustainable development agenda.

In his opening speech of the session, Mr. Wu Hongbo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said "It has only been three years since the Committee of Experts started its worthy journey that has already resulted in a number of early achievements. The level of Member State participation has increased, as evidenced by the attendance figures over the past two sessions. The number of work areas has grown, where expert and working groups that have been created; and your work have really drawn much wider attention and support from the international community."

The Committee of Experts successfully dealt with strategic issues such as: the adoption of decision 4/101, recommending that the amended draft Resolution on a Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development, be referred to the Economic and Social Council for endorsement and further referral to the United Nations General Assembly. A more sustainable global geodetic reference frame will ensure that more consistent locational positioning will be available across the globe. This is especially important as precise positioning is being applied in virtually every aspect of people's lives, from civil engineering and transportation, climate change and sea level monitoring, to sustainable development and emergency management.

Also addressed were the identification of approaches for legal and policy frameworks, including privacy laws required to support the use of authoritative geospatial data; the development of global mapping for sustainable development; the establishment and implementation of geospatial standards; the linkage of geospatial information to statistics; and definition of a shared statement of principles for the global geospatial community. Throughout the event capacity development of countries, through training, advisory services and encouraging good governance of geospatial information management, was keenly supported.

Importantly agenda item 4, "Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes", for which the UNGEIN Bureau contributed to the preparation of the report, was welcomed by the Committee. The Committee of Experts agreed that fundamental data themes underpinned several of the Committee's core objectives related to sustainable development and they also acknowledged the need to identify strategic priorities and to explore harmonization at the global level. This agenda item received the second most number of interventions which indicates the significant level of interest accorded by Member States to this topic.



Figure 4: Members of the UN-GGIM Bureau and USG DESA, during the opening ceremony



Overall the session was a success, Member States expressed that they were pleased with the achievements and deliverables and calls were made for new items to be added to the work program to be reported on at the 5th Session. The Chairs recognised and called for the continued support of the UN-GGIM intergovernmental process, which is vital as the UN-GGIM agenda evolves leading up to ECOSOC's evaluation in 2016.

It is expected that the fifth session of the Committee of Experts may be held from 5 -7 August 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

For additional information on the Committee meeting refer to http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html

Cecille Blake

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Figure 5: Participants of the Fourth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)



Upcoming Meetings of Groups Associated with Geographical Names

Third High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management

22 – 24 October 2014

Beijing, China

International symposium on toponymy "Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

5-7 November 2014

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Romano-Hellenic Division meeting and International scientific symposium "Place names as intangible cultural heritage"

25-27 March 2015



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